

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Séminaire II : Philosophy of mind (2PH2126)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en sciences cognitives	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M A - philosophie	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier secondaire M A - philosophie	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Kathrin Koslicki

Contenu

How is the mind related to the body? What is the best way to approach the special features of minds (e.g., consciousness and intentionality)? This seminar examines answers to these questions provided by different frameworks, such as Cartesian substance dualism, property dualism, reductive and non-reductive physicalism as well as Aristotelianhylomorphism. In particular, we focus on the following questions: What are mental states? How do mental states represent the world? What is consciousness and what sorts of challenges does this phenomenon pose for contemporary research? Can the mind act on the world, and if so, how? Are we more than the set of our psychological states? How do we know ourselves?

Forme de l'évaluation

Internal methods of assessment:

- (1) A paper (50% of internal evaluation grade)
- (2) Short weekly comments (30% of internal evaluation grade)
- (3) In-class presentations (10% of internal evaluation grade)
- (4) Attendance and participation (10% of internal evaluation grade)

(1) The paper should be approximately 12 pages long (~3000 words). Guidelines and a detailed grading rubric with criteria of evaluation will be made available. Students will receive assistance in finding a suitable topic as well as feedback on a draft before handing in the final version of their papers. (2) The short weekly comments (max. 1 page) for each meeting should raise questions or objections concerning the readings discussed in the seminar during that week. Students are encouraged to bring up these questions or objections during class discussion. (3) Students will be asked to give an in-class presentation of approximately 15-20 minutes at least once, and possibly more than once, during the semester. The in-class presentation should ideally help students find a paper topic, although it is not required that the topic of the presentation will also become the topic of the paper. (4) Attendance and participation are expected and required. Students will receive high marks for participation, if they are successful at demonstrating their engagement with the material discussed in this seminar, e.g., by contributing to class discussions regularly and in a constructive way; by attending office hours or scheduling appointments; by communicating via email; etc. Work that is not submitted by the required deadline, without good cause, will not be accepted and will automatically result in a failing grade for that assessment.

External methods of assessment: MA students in Philosophy are required to take a 30-minute oral examination on the material covered in this seminar. The internal and external evaluation grade each count for 50% of the final grade for this seminar.

Due Dates: Papers are due on January 15, 2021 and will be returned to students with comments and a grade. If the grade is not satisfactory (below 4), students will have the opportunity to hand in a revised version of their paper by February 15, 2021.

Assessment criteria: level of preparedness; clarity of oral and written expression; specification of technical terms used; structure (e.g., plan, logical organization of ideas); ability to highlight key points; persuasiveness of arguments; originality and creativity of positions defended; speed of reflection during oral presentations.

Language of instruction: The language of instruction for this seminar will be English.

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Documentation

David Chalmers, "The Puzzle of Conscious Experience", *Scientific American*, December 1995, pp. 80-86

Paul Churchland, *Matter and Consciousness*, 3rd Edition, Bradford Books, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2013

Daniel Dennett, "Where Am I?", in: *Brainstorms: Philosophical Essays on Mind and Psychology* by Daniel C. Dennett, Bradford Books, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1978

René Descartes, *Meditations On First Philosophy; with Selections from the Objections and Replies*, edited by John Cottingham, 2nd Edition, Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2008

Brie Gertler, "In Defence of Mind-Body Dualism", in: *Reason and Responsibility: Readings in Some Basic Problems of Philosophy*, edited by Joel Feinberg and Russ Shafer-Landau, Thomson Wadsworth, California, 2008, pp. 285-297

Frank Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia", *The Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol. 32, No. 127 (April 1982), pp. 127-136

William Jaworski, *Philosophy of Mind: A Comprehensive Introduction*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2011

Thomas Nagel, "What is it Like to Be a Bat", *The Philosophical Review*, Vol. 83, No. 4 (October 1974), pp. 435-450

David Papineau, "The Rise of Physicalism", in: *Physicalism and its Discontents*, edited by Carl Gillett and Barry Loewer, Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, 2001, pp. 3-36

Hilary Putnam, "Brains in a Vat", in: *Knowledge: Readings in Contemporary Epistemology*, edited by Sven Bernecker and Fred I. Dretske, Oxford University Press, 1999, pp. 1-21

David Rosenthal, "Two Concepts of Consciousness", *Philosophical Studies: An International Journal for Philosophy in the Analytic Tradition*, Vol. 49, No. 3 (May, 1986), pp. 329-359

Daniel Stoljar, *Physicalism*, *New Problems of Philosophy*, Routledge, Abingdon, Oxon, UK, 2010

The readings for this course will be made available online.

Pré-requis

None.

Forme de l'enseignement

Seminar, 2 hours per week, Monday, 14:00-16:00, Fall semester.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Define key concepts and principles used in the philosophy of mind.
- Recognise how prominent figures in the philosophy of mind are influenced by, and have influenced, their predecessors or successors.
- Examine how philosophers of mind apply key concepts and principles to central problems in the philosophy of mind.
- Identify the principal positions associated with prominent figures in the philosophy of mind.
- Discuss central texts in the philosophy of mind.
- Formulate well-reasoned arguments orally and in writing for or against positions that are advanced in the philosophy of mind.
- Write a well-organized and well-reasoned argumentative paper on a particular text, problem, or position advanced in the philosophy of mind.
- Work with other students to contribute to group projects.
- Describe the main influences and connections between the philosophy of mind and other areas of philosophy as well as connected disciplines, such as cognitive science, psychology, linguistics, etc.